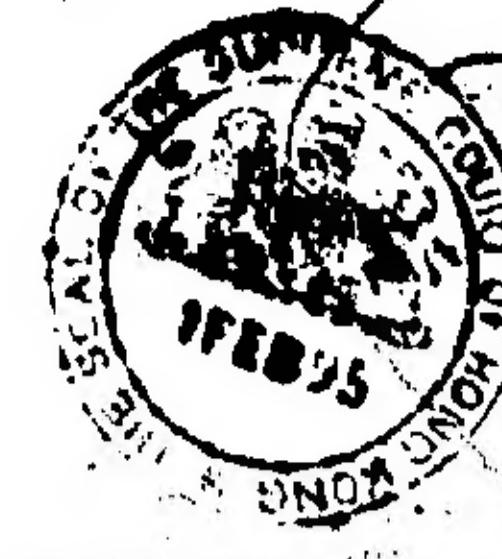




THE



THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.



No. 3968

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1895.

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

Banks.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.CAPITAL PAID-UP £800,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS £800,000
RESERVE FUND £75,000INTEREST ALLOWED ON CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of a per cent. per
annum on the Daily Balances.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months..... 5 per cent.

" " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " 3 " " 3 "

A. C. MARSHALL,
Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1894. [19]

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF
INDIA, LIMITED.AUTHORISED CAPITAL £1,500,000
SUBSCRIBED £1,185,000
PAID-UP £563,500BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.INTEREST ALLOWED ON CURRENT
ACCOUNTS at the Rate of 2 per cent.
per annum on the Daily Balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 12 Months..... 5 per cent.

" " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " 3 " " 3 "

JOHN THURBURN,
Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 18th June, 1894. [18]

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND
THE STRAITS, LIMITED.SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £3,000,000
CAPITAL PAID-UP £35,933.15.0BANKERS:
CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.HEAD OFFICE,
No. 3, PRINCE'S STREET, LONDON.BRANCHES:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI.AGENCIES:
PENANG, SINGAPORE AND KOWLOON.RATES OF INTEREST,
ALLOWED ON CURRENT ACCOUNTSand Fixed Deposits can be ascertained
on application.Every description of Banking and Exchange
business transacted.

CHANTREY INCHBALD,

Manager.

Hongkong, 6th November, 1893. [19]

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.Authorised Capital £1,000,000
Subscribed Capital £500,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Court of Directors:

D. GILLIES, Esq.
H. Stoltzfus, Esq.
Chan Kit Shan, Esq.

Chief Manager.

GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per Cent.
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1893. [17]

Insurances.

SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY OF
NEW ZEALAND.THE Undersigned are prepared to accept
FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCES on
favourable terms.Current rates, and a guaranteed Bonus equal
to that paid by the local Offices.S. J. DAVID & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1894. [145]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED.)CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000 } \$835,333.33
EQUAL TO } \$835,333.33
RESERVE FUND £318,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq. | LO YEK MOON, Esq.
LOU TSO SHUN, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken
at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the
World.HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.
Hongkong, 12th December, 1894. [140]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED \$1,000,000

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on Goods,
&c.—Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agents.CHAU TSUNG FAT,
Secretary.HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,
Hongkong, 26th May, 1894. [140]

Intimations.

HONGKONG MINSTRELS.

A MEETING of the above will be held at
the CITY HALL, on SATURDAY, the
2nd February, at 5 P.M., to receive the Accounts
and Transact other important business.WILLIAM BLAYNEY,
Hon. Sec.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1895. [176]

BELLIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

THE above SCHOOL will RE-OPEN on
MONDAY, the 4th February.
Hongkong, 30th January, 1895. [174]

CITY CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
the MEMBERS will be held in the
CLUB HOUSE on MONDAY, 4th February, at
9 P.M.
BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE,
Hongkong, 28th January, 1895. [162]TO THE
COMMUNITY
OF
HONGKONG.

NOTICE.

THE PLAGUE RECOGNITION
GENERAL COMMITTEE have the
honour to lay before the RESIDENTS of
HONGKONG the following statement and to
appeal for further subscriptions to enable them to
redeem their promises in regard to the
recognition to be accorded to the numerous
workers during last year's plague.It will be remembered that when the appeal
for Funds was first made, it was intimated that a
sum of \$5,000 would probably be adequate to
meet the cost of medals, &c., &c.

JOHN THURBURN,

Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 18th June, 1894. [18]

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CAPITAL PAID-UP £35,933.15.0BANKERS:
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HEAD OFFICE,

No. 3, PRINCE'S STREET, LONDON.

BRANCHES:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI.AGENCIES:
PENANG, SINGAPORE AND KOWLOON.

RATES OF INTEREST,

ALLOWED ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS

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CHANTREY INCHBALD,

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Hongkong, 6th November, 1893. [19]

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Chief Manager.

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Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per Cent.

Hongkong, 23rd October, 1893. [17]

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY for
1895 will be READY in A FEW
DAYS.

PRICE..... THREE DOLLARS.

This is the cheapest and best Directory of its
kind ever published.ORDERS should be sent to our Advertised
Agents or to the Office of THE HONGKONG
TELEGRAPH."ADVERTISEMENTS will be received up to
SATURDAY next.Pedder's Hill,
Hongkong, 30th January, 1895. [171]

THE PHARMACY.

"TANSAN" "TANSAN"

The NEW JAPANESE TABLE WATER
Recommended by leading Medical Men in
Hongkong and China.Analytical report by ARTHUR HILL HARSHAW,
M.D., and EDWARD GODWIN CLAYTON, F.I.C.S.,
F.C.S., London, shows that it contains 8 per
cent. more Iron Carbonates than any water from
similar Spas."TANSAN" "TANSAN" "TANSAN"
Sole Agents for Hongkong and South China.FLETCHER & Co.,
The Pharmacy,
25, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 10th November, 1894. [181]

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Hongkong, 10th November, 1894. [181]

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK &
COMPANY, LIMITED.
VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

COLDS IN THE HEAD, &c.

BURBOURG'S WELLCOME & CO.'S

PINOL EUCALYPTIA INHALERS.

ONE of the best remedies extant for Nasal Catarrh and all disorders of the Nasal Passages and Nasopharyngeal membranes.

Price \$1.25.

EUCALYPTUS OIL.

A STANDARD REMEDY FOR COLDS.
Sprinkled on the handkerchiefs and over the breast of the night clothing it gives almost instant relief.

Bottles \$1.00 and 50 Cents.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & CO., LTD.,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 10th January, 1895.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

All these are Selected by our London Agents, bought direct at first hand, imported in Woods and packed by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits and enabling us to supply the best growths at moderate prices.

PRICE LISTS, WITH FULL DETAILS, TO BE HAD
ON APPLICATION.

PORT.—After removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY.—Excellent dinner and after dinner Wine.—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currents, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY.—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "E" is universally popular and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong Market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Posts.

S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1895.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

BIRTH.

At Canton, on the 30th instant, the wife of HERBERT DENT, of a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1895.

TELEGRAMS.

MORE TROUBLE IN BRAZIL.

LONDON, January 31st.
Daily demonstrations of the partisans of Marshal Peixoto in Rio Janeiro are causing much uneasiness, and troops have been called out. The situation is serious.

JAPANESE DEFEAT AT WAI-HEI-WAI.
The Times correspondent in Shanghai writes that the Chinese fleet at Wai-hei-wai has driven off the Japanese fleet, and that a land attack from Ningbo has been repulsed.

COLLISION AND SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE
IN THE NORTH SEA.

The steamer *Elbe* collided with a collier in the North Sea. Three hundred lives were lost.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Chinese Envoy has arrived at Kobe.

THE JAPANESE NEWS BUREAU.

A Japanese despatch states that their advance in Manchuria has checked the activity of the Chinese.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The German steamer *Irene* recently seriously damaged by fire at Yokohama, arrived here today from Japan to be docked at Kowloon for extensive repairs.

DURING the past week two "sailors" (the *Lucy A. Nichols* and *St. David*), have been engaged to load here for San Francisco at \$1.25 and \$1.50 (gold), according to their respective capacities, and it is generally understood in shipping circles that another small vessel could be "fixed" with comparative ease.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. Dodwell, Carill & Co.) that the "Mogul" Line steamer *Chancery* left Singapore for this port yesterday, and is due here on or about the 6th proximo.

ONE hundred dollars was the fine contributed to the Treasury at the Police Court this morning by Lam Mong, a married woman, for unlawfully having in her possession ten tons of illicit opium.

"GREAT SCOTT"—No, he didn't. If our office boy couldn't improve upon the drivelling platitudes of the *Daily Post*, of which to-day's issue is, as you suggest, a fair sample, why we should have hunted him off our premises with the family birch long, long ago.

THE City of Rio de Janeiro went into the Cosmopolitan Dock this morning to effect the repairs necessitated by the unfortunate accident recently near Van Diemen's Straits, on the Japanese coast. The *Rio* will probably be in the Dock Company's hands for about three weeks.

News has been received here to-day, and is published in another column, of a great naval victory scored by Admiral Ting over the "Invincible" Japanese Navy. No details of the engagement are yet obtainable, but it may be fairly assumed the encounter was a desperate one and will be quickly followed by other upsets of the Lilliputians' apple cart.

THE *Mail Arsenal*, now rapidly going forward at Nagoya, Mitsui's expense for presentation to the Government will, says a Kobe paper, occupy nearly one acre of land, of which by far the greater part is being reclaimed from the sea. The four main blocks of building will each range 137 by 127 feet. The cost of construction is put at \$10,000,000, the capital investment is nearly all ready, having been prepared chiefly at the *Shibata* Arsenal.

PRICE LISTS, WITH FULL DETAILS, TO BE HAD
ON APPLICATION.

TO smokers who enjoy a first-class cigar we can recommend with great confidence a brand of Havanas manufactured by Messrs. Van Os & Co., of Amsterdam and Havana, and introduced into the Far East by Mr. S. A. Korzak, the energetic commission agent of Sanderson, British North Borneo. Mr. Korzak forwarded a specimen box of "Pastoral Habanas" to this office the other day, the contents of which have been sampled by numerous good judges, and opinions as to their excellence have been unanimous. Better cigars have never been available in this country, and the selling agents are Messrs. Watkinson & Co., of the Apothecary Hall, Queen's Road Central.

GENERAL Sun, who commands the 2,000 men who have been sent to oppose the Japanese at Ninghai, is said to be well-known amongst foreigners in Chefoo. He saw a good deal of active service during the Mahomedan rebellion in the north-west provinces, where he obtained his Imperial Yellow Riding Jacket and decoration of *Batara*, which corresponds to our V.C. command goes by the name of the Sunwas Brigade, the members of which are well drilled soldiers who served under him during the Mahomedan rebellion, and they have great confidence in their General. The original strength of the Brigade was 6,000 men, but two-thirds of them have been transferred to Tientsin by the Viceroy Li to fill up the gaps made by the troops sent to Manchuria.

WE require to acknowledge the rec'dt of a copy of a memorial which is now being signed by the landlords of Hongkong and will probably be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the next outgoing mail. This document, which the *Daily Press* erroneously alleges is already on its way to Downing Street, is too lengthy to be published *in extenso* in these columns at the present time. The memorial concludes with an appeal for compensation for the losses, loss the petitioners allege they have suffered through "the arbitrary and illegal action" of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board. The concluding paragraph of the memorial sets forth that to the "the neglect of the Government or the Sanitary Board or both" was attributable the serious effects of the introduction of the bubonic plague from the mainland of China. The *Telegraph's* opinion on this subject is too well known to need reiteration here, suffice to say that "all's well that ends well" and if there is no recurrence here of the deadly pest this year, the owners of houses closed during last year's epidemic and the public at large may be thankful that the unwelcome visitor has been got rid of so expeditiously and to cheaply.

THE Newswang season which, in the ordinary course of things, should open about six weeks hence, is likely to turn out the worst on record for many a long year, owing to the interference with the trade of that well known port caused by the war and the presence of large Chinese and Japanese armies in the districts whence Newswang derives her staple exports. It is probable, indeed, that, apart from the natural sequences of an abnormal demand upon the resources of Chinese Manchuria, which for months past has caused an unprecedented and more or less disastrous drain, bad as the forthcoming season will be, next season's crops will be very meager owing to the exodus of the panic-stricken natives from the vast agricultural regions over which Chinese and Japanese armies are likely to try conclusions during the spring and summer of the current year. Granting our surmise turns out to be pretty near the mark, then the stability of the local freight market cannot fail to be very adversely affected, for a large amount of surplus tonnage would, as Messrs. Lamke and Rogge very sensibly point out in their latest *Freight Circular*, be thrown on this market with the inevitable result that freights would drop to ruinously low rates. The effect on owners at present interested in the southern coast trade would not be felt for a few months though, for most of their vessels have been "fixed" on somewhat lengthy hire-charters. There are, however, some owners who might feel the "plough" severely, and to such these remarks may come as a timely warning note and lead to a careful survey of what may, metaphorically speaking, be termed breakers ahead.

A REGULAR Convocation of Cathay Chapter No. 1165, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting companions are cordially invited.

A MEETING of the "Odd Volume" will be held at the Society's Rooms to-night, at 9 o'clock p.m., when Mr. F. H. May will open a debate on "The local importance of the preservation of same in Hongkong." The Hon. J. J. Kewell will preside.

BY a printer's error in our last night's issue, the M. E. Z. of the Victoria Chapter for the ensuing year is given as Ex. Com. F. W. Haselden instead of Ex. Com. F. W. Heneberry. In the return of the election sent to this office "J" was omitted.

THE HONGKONG A. D. C. IN
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."

At many a burlesque have I been,
And many a hybrid pants seen,
But never ought like this,

"Marmon" (latest edition).

The members of the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club gave the first of a proposed series of eight performances of "Robinson Crusoe" at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, last night before a fairly large but by no means crowded house. "Robinson Crusoe" is described on the programme as a "grand comic pantomime"—not necessarily explanation, as nobody would ever have thought that it was anything of the sort but for this kindly forethought on the part of the management. Yet in honest truth the thing is not a pantomime in any sense of the word, and we confess to being somewhat at a loss to give an approximately accurate definition of what it really is. This class of exhibition in England and elsewhere is generally entitled either a burlesque or extravaganza; but the Hongkong A. D. C.'s "Robinson Crusoe" is such a conglomeration of idiotic rubbish, so devoid of plot, rhyme or reason, so insanely stupid and vulgarly offensive, such a farce of mildewed biledness without a single redeeming point from beginning to end, that it is impossible to intelligently classify it. Our impression is that a lot of trashy dialogue and ludicrous situations were strung together indiscriminately as an excuse for the introduction of various musical numbers and display of skirt and other dances (including a very fair, if somewhat abbreviated, replica of the world-famous *can-can* of the old Paris *Mabille* days), and as a cover on which to hang some of the worse scling and most grecious fooling ever seen on the Hongkong stage.

All this is the more surprising when it is remembered that Mr. F. W. Mitchell, the stage manager, is an old actor of wide and varied experience; that the musical director, Mr. J. Orange, is a thoroughly accomplished and capable musician who has been actively associated for many years with public entertainments in the colony; and that the amateurs had the advantage of selection, months of rehearsal, scenery, dresses, and general stage effects far beyond the reach of any professional troupe that has ever visited Hongkong. It is also stated that the "March of all Nations" was picturesque, if at the last a trifle tedious; but what it had to do with the "grand comic pantomime of "Robinson Crusoe" we are unable to fathom, and there was a sigh of relief all over the theatre when the curtain fell on the dress-rehearsal, weariest, most dismal show given under amateur auspices in Hongkong during the past thirteen years.

As it was a first night considerable allowance must, of course, be made for the stage management, which, however, left a good deal to be desired; and the scenery painted by Mr. M. A. Bapista, about which so much had been reported, fell far short of general expectation, though, we believe, no fault of the veteran artist. The musical arrangements were all perfect, Mr. Orange conducted in his very best style, and was most ably backed up by Mr. George Grimble at the piano and the excellent Band of the Rifles Brigade. Mr. H. E. Denison manipulated the "lame-light" with consummate effect, and Mr. H. W. Blod is entitled to special recognition for the taste displayed in designing the dresses.

The next performance will be given on Monday the 4th February.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."

We are indebted to an esteemed lady correspondent for the following very clever and impartial criticisms on last night's representation of "Robinson Crusoe":

Only a fair-sized audience assembled at the City Hall last evening to greet the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club in their first performance of the "Grand Comic Pantomime of Robinson Crusoe," the greater part of the audience consisting of gentlemen, one having to use opera glasses to discover the ladies at all. We have never seen sex at the "anti-sophomore" of a professional company is due to their fear of being shocked at a perhaps immoderate show of ankles on the part of a vivacious chorus girl, or of a dancer throwing her dainty toe a little too high, but we have also heard that with amateurs there could be no cause to dread any unusual display of the nether limbs. It is, however, we were agreeably disappointed last night, and were only too pleased to see a little activity and liveliness infused into some of the dances, and as their dresses were appropriately full and fairy-like they admitted of a little extra display in the "high-kicking" line, which was very welcome.

The dresses, scenery and staging were not up to general expectation, and the performance as a whole took more after the style of a variety show than of a pantomime, consisting mostly of songs and dances, with an occasional scrap of dialogue wedged in between. A little more dialogue apportioned to the plot (if any) would have added interest to the story, and proved a relief from the continued monotony of song and dance.

The scenery was very mediocre, a very curious effect being produced in a "Street-in-Hall" when Mrs. Crusoe (Mr. Brady) appeared to be looking over the top of a four-story house to see what was going on in the back-yard. Scene III was aretched set, supposed to represent Polley's bedroom,—a wretched case doing duty for a pantomime, and some coarse uniforms for Polley's wardrobe. We felt quite sorry for Mrs. Wagen having to sweep round such a wretched house in her charming white dressing gown; and it was hardly the place for two dainty little nymphs to execute a charming *pas-de-deux*. Crusoe's Island was indeed a desert island as portrayed last night. Instead of bright, rippling water, golden sand, and foliage of every hue, the painter had measured off so many green trees, so many dark-brown rocks, and a quantity of blue water, and called it Crusoe's Island. In Scene V—"The Golden Reef"—a subject which would afford infinite scope to the imagination of an artist—was simply a cloth with some dark-looking water and black-looking rocks, outlined with tinsel, apparently stuck on at the last minute.

There was plenty of dancing of all kinds, but nothing new or original, the most successful being the skirt dance at the opening of the second act, and the Highland Fling just before the "March of all Nations."

The March was the redemptive feature of the whole performance; but even this well-executed march was called upon after witnessing it for the last two pantomimes.

The dresses were certainly not of an elaborate description, tho' this may perhaps be due to the way in which they were worn. There is an air in wearing a dress, and where one woman would look very much a queen in a cotton gown, others could not change their appearance even were they dressed in grandeur divine. This was very noticeable last night, the few who showed off their dresses to the best advantage being the representatives of Spain, America, Germany, Canada, and Scotland. The "English Girl" in a dainty and beautiful combination of white satin and foil-blown English roses, with a large rustic-looking velvet, did full justice to her costume. "Catskin" looked very fresh and sweet, dressed completely in white material trimmed with astrachan, and carrying skates in her hand. "America" in her stars and stripes looked dashing and bright. The Company should have been chosen to represent "Our English Girl".—The Spanish Signor, in a beautifully designed dress of yellow satin and black velvet, did full justice to his costume.

He sang with a clear, ringing voice, and his dancing was a delight to the eye. The "German Fräulein" was dressed well, and we regret to have to record that she did not sing sweetly, nor did she move gracefully. The local authorities forbade the *can-can* of the kitchen god on the 24th of December, and many of the people were obliged to forego the pleasure of *sung-tao*. The reason for the prohibition is the carelessness of the people with fire and firecrackers.

Expected to see a fair round face, with her two neatly plaited tails of yellow hair (*a la Marguerite in "Faust"*) which would have been an improvement on the dark Spanish-looking maid of the *Fatherland*. The Scotch lassie and *Will Atkins*—in fact, the latter impersonation was too utterly awful to any sense relishably indicate the actor's ability. Mr. G. A. Caldwell was amusing in a way as *Man Friday*, but for any descended in that respect he fully atoned by the admirable manner in which the dances and musical drill had been arranged and was carried out. Mr. H. Hayward as the *King of the Cannibal Island*, Mr. G. C. Hayward as the *Queen*, and *Licut. Bryson, R.N.*, as the *Prime Minister*, all worked hard, but you can make bricks w/out straw and as it's impossible to get out of state stuff entirely devoid of sense or meaning, their efforts failed decidedly first. Probably Mr. Brady, as *Mrs. Crusoe* was the greatest disappointment in the on the performance. Our leading *comique* commenced well enough, and at times during the performance evidenced some dramatic appreciation, but as a whole the impersonation was a pronounced failure, and in our opinion the suggestive references made to certain professional actors and actresses who have lately visited Hongkong were uncalled for and in extremely bad taste. The other members of the cast and the "supers" did the best they could, which in this instance is but a very doubtful compliment.

The skirt dancing was excellent, and the weak imitation of the *can-can* was not without considerable merit; but while disclaiming any right to symphonise on the matter, the *Hongkong Telegraph* questions the propriety of young girls, who are little more than children, being publicly flaunted in exhibitions of this character. The *Highland Fling* was most adably done, especially by the Scotch lassie, (Miss Molly Atken) and elicited thunderous of applause from all parts of the house. The "March of all Nations" was picturesque, and at the last a trifle tedious; but what it had to do with the "grand comic pantomime" of "Robinson Crusoe" we are unable to fathom, and there was a sigh of relief all over the theatre when the curtain fell on the dress-rehearsal, weariest, most dismal show given under amateur auspices in Hongkong during the past thirteen years.

Judging by the terms set forth in the prospectus, the general good faith with the public which the Advisory Board ensures, the high reputation which Bell's materials enjoy the world over, and the ever-increasing demand for the same, it appears beyond question that there is ample room for an undertaking of this kind in the Far Orient. And the only wonder is that such a company was not floated long ago.

The capital of the Company, although comparatively small, appears to be quite large enough for the accomplishment of the objects in view, and may also prove sufficient for the gradual extension of the business in all its branches. When we call to mind the remarkable success of the parent company, if we may use the term, a few years ago, we are bound to take it for granted that those who believe the new concern will yield handsome profits for the shareholders are not indulging in the dangerous pastime of building "castles in the air," or anything half so unsatisfactory.

Messrs. Bell's sp'cials are far too well known to need elaboration here. It is generally acknowledged that the quality of their goods is unequalled in the trade, and all their manufacturers in the form of steam and electricity; also of Bell's Lubricant and all kinds of steam piping and engine-room requisites. (b) A contract, dated 27th November, 189

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1865.

KOREA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CHIKULPO, December 23rd, 1864.
The captured *Tsaktsing* has come to Chinkulpo and after a few days' stay left with a number of Japanese soldiers for an unknown destination. She has been painted white and improved in a number of ways.

Three inland towns, Syean in Chouyundzoo, and Ko-pow, and Mowchyang in Chihli, have been burned to the ground, not a single house remaining. One of the towns contained 6000 houses, one thousand houses and another 300 houses. The cause of the disaster is not yet known.

In the north the Tongkoks have been making themselves felt. A number of Japanese merchants have been killed, and the Tongkoks are now extending their operations into Peiping. A few have been in Chinkulpo also. Two have been arrested and imprisoned for a few days, but were afterwards released, as the evidence against them was insufficient. Yesterday the courier from Seoul was stopped and the mail-bag opened and the envelope torn. This was supposed to have been done by Tongkoks but I doubt it. A good deal is attributed to the To phaks which does not properly belong to them.

The old Cabinet has been replaced by an entirely new one composed of that class of unenviable reputation in which Kim-uk-kun belonged, and their sympathizer, Pak Yeng-ho, is Minister of the Home Office; Syo Kwang-pem is President of the Board of Justice and a number of exceedingly questionable characters are scattered here and there throughout the Ministry. They all agree on one thing, however, and that is that Japan is a model of civilization and an infallible guide in everything. How long this preposterous notion will obtain in official circles God only knows.—*N. C. Daily News.*

MANCHURIA.

Writing on "Our Commercial Relations with Chinese Manchuria" in the December number of the *Geographical Journal*, Mr. Agassiz, of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, makes the following remarks which are especially interesting at the present time:—

Manchuria is rather larger than Afghanistan, and contains a great many geographical features and the political importance of its situation. For administrative purposes it is divided into three provinces: Kalgan, Tung-chou, and Ningpo. Ningpo is situated on the Yellow River, and is roughly 100 miles from the sea. The permanent European population, including children, consists of about eleven thousand. A man will, about five miles from the city, find three sides of the city, the other fronting the river, which is 500 yards wide. The wall was finished in 1761, and paid for by public subscription. Mr. Agassiz also notices Port Arthur, situated on the Yellow River, and is roughly 100 miles from Ningpo. Ningpo is the centre of the trade carried on with the Russian port of Kharbin by means of boats on the Amur and the Amoor. Hunchun is important both to trade and strategy. It is in close proximity to the Russian and Korean frontier. Only thirty miles away is Jilin, a harbour belonging to Russia, and within a few hours' steam of Vladivostock, a name which means, by the way, "master over the sea." The population of Manchuria is said to be about ten millions. Transport is defective. There is little water traffic, owing to the torrential character of the streams. The long frozen lakes make the roads good for traffic, and cartage predominates. The carts are mostly small farm-carts, fore-and-aft. In winter, and willing to cart at a low figure, a hundredweight can be carried ten miles for four pence. Against this a railway could hardly compete, but it could in passenger traffic. A passenger cart drawn by three ponies can only take one person. Its hire is three shillings, a day, and at the rate of travelling the cost per mile would be nearly three halfpence, to say nothing of loss of time. No estimate has been made of the number of carts and draught cattle in the country, but in 1860 for the period of one hundred days, there entered the town of Nanchang daily 542 carts, drawn by 2340 animals, mostly mules and ponies, bringing about 100,000 tons of produce.

As may be supposed, under such circumstances of traffic, law-keeping flounders. An instance of the "rascist" trade done by Marchurian inn-keepers, there is a hotel on the high road from the grain district to the place where water carts can be procured for the coast, at which the common den of pack, the favorite land, is 8000 d. v. These are better than carts for passenger traffic. Telegraph lines connect most of the larger towns with Nanchang, which is connected with Tientsin and Peking, the climate of Manchuria is suited to Germans, Scandinavians, and Scotchmen. Severe winters, dry atmosphere, and hostile winds in spring are to such commodities as neuralgia, rheumatism, and tuberculosis; but apart from these, no disease occurs with unusual frequency. The staple food of the people is *baos-ting*, a kind of millet flour made out of beans, and a small yellow grain called *shao-mi*. Pork is cheap and plentiful, goat herds and deer are not scarce and goat flesh abundant. The Sungari is full of salmon and cod, pike, soles, mackerel, white-bait, prawns, &c., are caught on the coast. Strong tea, rice is only eaten by the rich. Grapes, peaches, Siberian or b-apple, walnuts, and plums are grown. In spring and autumn, wild fowl, geese, ducks, and teal are very abundant; so are hares, pheasant, partridge, snipe, curlew, bustard, and golden plover. Deer, antelope, and tiger keep the sportsman busy in the Kifao and Helung-ching districts.

Among the exports of Manchuria are skins, ginseng—a medicinal root, highly prized in China—and deer-horns, also used in medicine; but by far the most important product is bean-oil, exported to all parts of China for lighting and cooking purposes. The bean preponderates over every other cereal in Manchuria, and affords employment to a large army of workers, boatmen, carters, employed in the bean-oil mills, in addition to the thousands engaged in cultivating it. The chief imports are cotton goods, woollen goods (very little), metals, and opium. British-Indian commerce has suffered by the remarkable falling-off in the importation of opium. In 1871 its value represented upwards of 60 per cent. of the total value of all foreign goods imported; in 1888 it represented less than 16 per cent.; in 1891 less than 2 per cent. This is not due to a change in the habits of the people, but to the cultivation of the poppy in Manchuria itself; yet, in spite of the falling-off in the importation of Indian opium, an enormous increase in that of other goods has taken place. For the period 1881-1891 it has been at the rate of 292 per cent. In 1891, of the tonnage of the shipping entering the port of Nanchang, 58 per cent. was British, and 49 per cent. German. Third in order came the Chinese, 7 per cent. Waste lands and the absence of commerce, says Mr. Agassiz, are the natural outcome of militarism. To this rule Manchuria has been no exception. Before the conquest of China the respect in which the professor of arms was held was soon sufficient to show that the country had little commerce. Acres by the thousand remained uncultivated. After the events of 1864 numbers of Manchus left the country for military service in China. Little was exported but gold-dust, the country was infested with brigands,

and trade well-nigh impossible. The Yellow River floods have been instrumental in re-peopling it. Manchuria, concludes Mr. Agassiz, already stands before Newfoundland, our oldest colony, as an importer of manufactured goods, and in twenty years will be ahead of Turkey in Europe, British Guiana, and the Colombian Republic, and may take precedence in this respect of Portugal, Mexico, and Cape Colony. Then, as now, Great Britain, America, Germany, and with a larger share than at present, Japan, will be the chief participants.

WANTED—AUSTRALIA FOR THE JAPS.

Australias's boozey has changed its mask, and from Chinese become Japanese. The incidents of the current war establish definitely and, to appearance, finally a conclusion which a few well-informed people had previously reached, but which was opposed by almost the whole mass of popular opinion—the conclusion that the Chinese are not a fighting race, that they are not united by any spirit of patriotism, and that individual apathy and national corruption make them incapable of any organized effort for the common benefit. The Chinese scare is over; but it looks as if soon, with much more reason, a Japanese scare will succeed it. For East, North, and West, the Japs are pouring into Australia. At Port Darwin and Town Bay they have established a virtual monopoly of the pearl fisheries; at Mackay, Geraldton, and Townsville many hundreds have been introduced as labourers on the sugar plantations; and in Western Australia, while the men come to fish for pearls, the Japanese women come by scores to fish for men. The Jap is patient, intelligent, and adaptable; and it is only a matter of time till he gets a permanent footing of which it will not be easy to dispossess him. For the chances are that Japan—enthusiastic, warlike, and patriotic—will not submit to be treated by Australia as contemptuously as China has been. It is quite conceivable that the rights of a Japanese subject in Queensland will soon be matter for international diplomacy, and that we may be asked to redress grievances at the muzzle of a rifle. Everything goes to show that Australia has only two alternatives—free welcome or complete exclusion. The former is unthinkable by any democrat. With all his virtues, the Jap is a cheap labourer of the most unpleasant kind; his race-quality does not fit him for intermarriage on equal terms with Caucasians; and his presence in large numbers will unquestionably degrade the standard of Australian civilization. The fact that in many vital points of character he is equal, or almost equal, to ourselves, makes his rivalry all the more dangerous. Yet Great Britain, true to the worship of the golden calf, has just concluded with Japan a treaty which throws open Japanese ports to her trade, and in return concedes to Japanese subjects the right of entry and settlement on British soil. It is provided that any of the Australian provinces may be made parties to the treaty if they express a desire to that effect at any time within the next two years; and already the journalistic organs of commercial opportunism are pointing out the great benefit which would result to Australia from extensive meat and wool export to Japan. It is a benefit which should be refused without the slightest hesitation. Trade is too dearly bought by the rules of national life. Men are worth more than money. Australia will never sell her birthright for a mess of pottage.—*Sydney Bulletin.*

FIVE MINUTES.

Either by a mental or psychological perverseness—and there seems no other name for it—five minutes is almost universally accepted as the unit of time in describing any event or occurrence which is not measured accurately by a stopwatch. An illustration of this peculiarity of time measurement is offered by the story of the man who fell down on a slippery street, and in narrating the story of his misadventure declared that although he had fallen he was up on his feet again in less than five minutes.

How seldom we who use "five minutes" in the conventional sense stop to think what it really means, or how much action and sensation only can but be continually crowded into the space of time which five minutes represent. If a clock is beating seconds it requires three hundred beats of the pendulum to round out five minutes, and it is easily conceivable that this lapse of time may cover three hundred separate individual actions each playing an important part in the life and history of the world.

Let us see, briefly, what may be done in five minutes. Taking up locomotion first, for the change from one place to another in the shortest possible time is one of the great factors of modern civilization, it will appear that a very fast railroad train will cover five miles in five minutes; that an expert bicycle rider will do at least half as well; that many trotting and racing horses will almost equal railroad speed for five minutes; and that man, aided by anything but muscular power, can run a mile in considerably less than five minutes. In the question of transportation, therefore, five minutes certainly cannot be taken as the unit.

When we come to matters of manual skill and dexterity it is simply amazing what may be accomplished in five minutes. A very skillful stenographer will take from dictation 200 words a minute, or 1,000 words in five minutes, equal to this column, and will reproduce it with literal accuracy. A good typewriter will take 80 words a minute—400 in five minutes—and turn it out letter-perfect and ready for use in any way in which it may be needed. A facile writer is long-hand will write from thirty to fifty words a minute—say 200 words in five minutes—and even more under the whip and spur of necessity. More than this is the "art preservative of all arts," an average composite will set up, from full copy, seven or eight words a minute, or from 35 to 40 words in five minutes.

These are ordinary and easily understood illustrations of what five minutes really means, but there is an easier and simpler way to measure this lapse of time. If any one wants to know what five minutes really are, let him undertake to sit still and motionless for that time with a watch held over him, and before the time has elapsed he will be in a state of hopeless confusion between Time and Eternity. Most of us when we say "five minutes" really mean "five seconds." We use the term "five minutes" in a purely conventional sense, without any definite idea of the time it really covers. Usually this misuse of the term is harmless, but cases can be imagined where the use of the term might be or become matter of life or death. A witness on the stand in a criminal case, for example, who should swear to five minutes when he actually meant five seconds might be the instrument of conviction or acquittal and of a miscarriage of justice. All of us, in short, are entirely too free in the use of the purely conventional term "five minutes!"—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

BITS OF INFORMATION.

Flying frogs are numerous in Borneo. Whales are never found in the Gulf Stream. Bells were first placed in churches about 400 A.D. The wheels of a watch travel 3,558 miles a year.

Prior to 1657 tea was sold in England for \$50 a pound.

There are nearly 70,000 post-offices in the United States.

The population of the United States in 1790 was 3,979,241.

The first copper cent was coined in New Haven in 1687.

The estimated population of the world in 1893 was 1,500,000,000.

Damascus gave to the world damask linen and the damson plum.

Taking the world over there are 109 women to every 100 men.

The State of New York contains 50,000 more women than men.

Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, was founded three centuries ago.

Ninety-seven out of every 100 Arctic explorers have returned alive.

Coffee is so called from being first brought to Europe from Caffa.

Asparagus is the oldest known plant that has been used for food.

Cuvier said that a whale might live to be one thousand years old.

In Corinth, about the time of Christ, twenty-five big bronze drums were brought to a cent.

Leather trunks were used in Rome as early as the time of Caesar.

Football was a crime in England during the reign of Henry VIII.

Kerry is a corruption of Jersey, where the fabric was first made.

The earliest attempt to use iron ore in America was in 1622.

Calico was first introduced from Calicut, as stuff for men's clothes.

Out of every nine sudden deaths reported eight of the number are men.

The old Chinese nickname for the Japanese was "the monkey men."

The mean temperature of the whole earth is about 50 deg. Fahrenheit.

The Missouri Penitentiary started in business in 1835 with one prisoner.

The flattening of the pole of Jupiter can be seen through the telescope.

There are 4,570,000 more women than men in Europe at the present time.

The average annual amount of dew in England is equal to five inches of rain.

The serpent moves by elevating the scales of its abdomen and pulling itself along.

Of the white population of America only 8 per cent. are unable to read and write.

A telegraph line now traverses the Gobi Desert, in China, 3,000 miles in length.

The first person to be hanged in England was a private in the reign of Henry III, in 1247.

The population of Philadelphia at the time the city was incorporated, in 1701, was 2,500.

The French paper *La Presse* says that 4,847,500,000 people die during each century.

The United States still owns about a billion acres of land. One-third of this is in Alaska.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale says that only 12 per cent. of the American people are illiterate.

Goldfish were first known in China, and were brought to Europe in the Seventeenth century.

The population of Babylon during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar is said to have been 2,000,000.

The human body is covered with minute scales, each scale covering from 100 to 500 pores.

Lake Achulo, Chile, has an area of forty-five square miles and 12,500 feet above sea level.

Russia has the largest standing army and Great Britain has the largest navy in the world.

Previous to this century slaves were unknown. All cooking was done before open fireplaces.

Mount Everest in the Himalayas is the highest mountain in the world; it is 29,000 feet high.

The bacilli of tuberculosis cause the death every year of 150,000 persons in the United States.

Laborad has 900 species of flowering plants, to fern and over 250 species of mosses and lichens.

The Pacific Ocean covers 67,000,000 of the 188,000,000 square miles comprising the earth's surface.

According to Muller the total number of words, or rather ideas, expressed by Chinese characters is 43,500.

The blood flows almost as freely through the bones as through the flesh of very young children.

New York, Paris and Berlin combined lack forty-two square miles of having as great an area as London.

It is calculated that the men and women of today are nearly two inches taller than their ancestors.

Only six persons out of each 1,000 live to be seventy-five years old, and only one reaches the century mark.

If the United States had as great a relative population as Japan it would have a population of 650,000,000.

The first steamship to cross the Atlantic, *Great Britain*, was commenced in 1839 and floated in 1845.

Man has never seen inside of some of the Egyptian pyramids since they were first built, so far as known.

It was customary, a hundred years ago, when a gentleman bowed to a lady, to scrape his foot upon the ground.

ORMISTON.—Will be despatched for the above Ports on FRIDAY, the 8th February.

For Freight or Passage, apply to TATA & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1865. [173]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

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The SEVERAL LOTS NUMBERED 1 to 25, on Plan to be seen at the Auctioneers Rooms, for erection of BOOTH'S AND MATSHEDS on the Government Ground adjoining the RACE-COURSE, North of the Grand Stand enclosures.

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Hongkong, 1st January, 1865. [174]

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